

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

In the paragraph starting on page 7, line 19-page 8, line 5 as follows:

The insertion groove 14 ~~strictly~~ fits snugly in the pinching jaw 23 of the brush holding portion 22 of the handle. The sectional shape of the pinching jaw 23 in the holding portion 22 in which the insertion groove is held should be ~~a-shape~~ shaped so that no unnecessary void is formed when the insertion groove is inserted and also brush part does not easily detach, and is composed of, for example, an arc having a central angle W in a range of  $180^{\circ} < W \leq 200^{\circ}$  as shown in Fig. 3(a) and facing parallel planes 24. The angle W is considerably enlarged in Fig. 3(a) for explanation. When the central angle is less than  $180^{\circ}$ , holding power in the longitudinal direction of the brush part decreases, which may cause inconveniences such as drop-off of the brush during use. When exceeding  $200^{\circ}$ , it is difficult to insert the brush part into the pinching jaw and cracks may be formed at the brush holding portion. Preferred range of angle W is  $182^{\circ} \leq W \leq 195^{\circ}$ . When  $182^{\circ}$  or more, dropout of the brush part in use is almost prevented. When less than  $195^{\circ}$ , no excessive strong power is necessary during insertion of the brush part.  $184^{\circ}$ - $190^{\circ}$  is preferred considering operationability and easiness of detachment of the brush part. To enhance the fitting between the handle and the brush holding portion and to prevent unnecessary dropout of the brush part in the oral cavity, above-said depressions and corresponding protrusions may be formed on both planes.

In the paragraph starting on page 8, lines 6-17:

Fig. 4 illustrates an example of the brush container of the present invention. Fig. 4(a) is a plan view, Fig. 4(b) a side view, Fig. 4(c) a front view, and Fig. 4(d) shows a condition where a neck of the brush part is inserted into the neck holding slit 32 of the brush containing room. Although the brush container may be composed of only a brush containing room 31, it is preferred to include a brush detaching room 34. The neck holding slit 32 is formed at the brush containing room to store replacement brushes while holding the neck of the brush part. The width of the neck holding slit 32 is longer than the ~~minor~~ minor axis  $r$  of the neck and shorter than the major axis  $R$ . Thereby all the insertion grooves are not stored on their sides. And replacement brushes are aligned in the brush container 30 so that all the insertion grooves face up, consequently each insertion groove 14 surely faces up in the brush containing room. Thereby the brush part may be attached through one touch operation.

In the paragraph starting on page 8, line 26-page 9, line 1:

~~Then use~~ The method of the for using the interdental brush set of the present invention is now described. ~~When the brush part is attached to the handle and the brush container has a lid, firstly the lid of the brush containing room is opened. Attachment of the~~ The brush part 10 is attached to the brush holding portion 22 is simply to push by pushing the handle 20 in into the brush part 10 of a replacement brush facing the insertion groove facing up in the brush containing room 31 so that the brush holding portion 22 is connected with the insertion groove 14. The interdental brush is formed through this one touch operation. Consequently, a user does will not contaminate a new brush by touching hands directly and can brush his/her teeth with a clean interdental brush.

In the paragraphs starting on page 9, line 15-page 10, line 18:

Main The features of the present invention are described as follows:

1. An interdental brush having a brush part and a handle where the brush part is exchangeable characterized in that: the brush part has an insertion groove 14 having facing planes 15 at an angle of  $70^{\circ}$  to  $110^{\circ}$  to an axial direction of the brush and the handle 20 has a brush holding portion 22 which connects with the insertion groove 14. ~~2. the interdental brush according to claim 1 wherein~~ In a preferred embodiment, the angle of the plane to the axial direction of the brush is  $80^{\circ}$  to  $100^{\circ}$ . ~~3. the interdental brush according to claim 1 wherein~~ In a more preferred embodiment, the angle of the plane to the axial direction of the brush is  $85^{\circ}$  to  $95^{\circ}$ . ~~4. the interdental brush according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein~~ In a preferred embodiment, the brush part and the handle forms a unified shape when they are connected with each other. ~~5. the interdental brush according to claim 4 wherein the unified shape is a sphere. 6. the interdental brush according to claim 4 wherein the unified shape is an elliptic. 7. the interdental brush according to claim 4 wherein the unified shape is a polygon.~~ Persons of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the unified shape can take the form of a sphere, an ellipsoid, or a polygon. ~~8. the interdental brush according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein~~ In one embodiment, the brush holding portion of the handle is inserted in the insertion groove of the brush part at an angle of  $0^{\circ}$  to  $20^{\circ}$  to the longitudinal direction of the handle. ~~9. the interdental brush according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein~~ In an alternate embodiment, the brush holding portion of the handle fits in the insertion groove of the brush part at an angle of  $20^{\circ}$  to  $90^{\circ}$  to the longitudinal direction of the handle. ~~10. the interdental brush according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein~~ In a preferred embodiment, depressions and protrusions corresponding to each other are formed at the planes of the insertion groove and the brush holding portion.

In an alternate embodiment, the present invention may also include ~~An~~ an interdental brush set comprising one or more interdental brush of which brush part is exchangeable and a

brush container ~~characterized in~~ such that ~~[[;]]~~ the interdental brush comprises a brush part and a handle where the brush part has an insertion groove having facing planes at an angle of  $70^{\circ}$  to  $110^{\circ}$  to an axial direction of the brush ~~[[;]]~~ ~~and a~~ A neck ~~projecting~~ projects to the brush direction while covering the brush axis, ~~and a~~ A sectional shape of the neck has a major axis R in the same direction as that of the insertion groove ~~[[;]]~~. ~~the~~ The handle has a brush holding portion which connects to the insertion groove at an end of the handle ~~[[;]]~~. ~~the~~ The brush container stores multiple replacement brush parts each of which neck is supported by neck holding slit where the width of the neck holding slits of the brush containing room is longer than minor axis length r and shorter than the major axis length R of the neck. ~~21. the~~ The interdental brush set ~~wherein the~~ can include an interdental brush ~~is the interdental brush according to any one of above 1 to 9 in any of the shapes described above.~~ ~~22. the interdental brush set according to above 20 or 21 wherein~~ In a preferred embodiment, the brush container further includes a brush detaching room.